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FNC

# The Friday Letter

Vol. 8 No. 21

November 10, 1988

PROCUREMENT SECTION  
CURRENT CONCERNS

## Come to the 1988 Health Fair!

Open season for enrollment in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program begins November 14 and ends December 9. During the open enrollment period, employees will be given the opportunity to change plans or options or to move from self-only to self-and-family coverage.

The FNS Health Fair for headquarters will be held November 22 in Conference Room 400 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Flyers announcing the Health Fair will be circulated to all employees at headquarters.

-Story by Edna Alford  
Personnel Division



Employees will be provided copies of the 1989 FEHB Enrollment Information and Plan Comparison Chart (RI 70-7), which gives the major features of each plan and the rates. If you don't receive your copy of the comparison chart and Standard Form (SF) 2809, Health Benefits Registration Form, please contact your servicing personnel office.

On the back of SF-2809, you will find enrollment instructions. Your SF-2809 must be completed and submitted to your appropriate employing office prior to December 9 at close of business.

Employees should review brochures carefully prior to making a final selection. Particular attention should be given to the sections on limitations, exclusions, and definitions.

As in the past, activities will be planned to help employees make an informed choice of plans and options. During the FNS Health Fair at headquarters, representatives of FEHB plans will be available to answer questions about their plans' benefits and procedures.

## FNS Evaluates the Summer Food Service Program

FNS recently released a report on the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). SFSP provides nutritious meals to low-income children during the summer months when most children are out of school and unable to participate in the National School Lunch Program.

During the summer of 1986, data collectors gathered information about program operation from a nationally representative sample of over 200 SFSP sites in 17 states. Major program improvements were observed compared to the late 1970's when studies by the General Accounting Office and USDA's Office of the Inspector General reported serious problems, such as substandard meal quality.



(SFSP Continued Next Page)



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Now almost all (94 percent) SFSP participants receive nutritious meals containing the five required meal pattern components. While residential camps make up one-third of all sponsors, most participants receive meals at sites with government or school sponsors. A typical site has an average daily attendance of 100-300 children and is sponsored by a large multi-site sponsor.

Other report findings indicate:

- More than 90 percent of SFSP sites are open for four or more weeks.
- While virtually all sites serve lunch, one-third of the sites also serve breakfast, 14 percent serve a snack, and seven percent serve supper (primarily camps).
- About 50 percent of participants receive meals prepared by outside vendors, one-third receive meals prepared onsite, and the remaining 17 percent receive meals prepared at a central kitchen.

The report, "An Evaluation of the Summer Food Service Program," was sent to Congress. Copies of the report may be obtained by calling Steve Gale at 756-3117.

-Story by Leslie Christovich  
Office of Analysis and Evaluation

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

The Friday Letter is published every two weeks by the Public Information Staff of the Food and Nutrition Service. To update mailing address or to alter number of copies received, please mail changes to the FNS Public Information Staff, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 823, Alexandria, VA 22302, telephone 756-3000.

## MARO EEO Counselor Receives Award

A certificate of merit was awarded recently to Mary (Brenda) Styles, a budget analyst and EEO counselor in the Mid-Atlantic Region for her outstanding contribution to the region's Equal Employment Opportunity Program.

Styles, who has been an EEO counselor for three years, has contributed innovative ideas which helped resolve several difficult EEO cases. She was also instrumental in organizing the region's Black History Month activities.



Brenda Styles, budget analyst and EEO counselor, receives an award from MARO Administrator Chris Martin for her outstanding contribution to the region's EEO Program.

-Story by Christina Turner-Balog  
MARO EEO/Civil Rights Office  
Photo by Joe Dunphy  
MARO Public Affairs Staff

## Join Us for Native American Heritage Week Activities

USDA will celebrate Native American Heritage Week from November 14 to 18. This year's theme is "First Americans and Agriculture." On November 17 at 10 a.m., Mitchell L. Bush, Jr., president of the American Indian Society and a full-blooded Onondaga Indian of the Iroquois Confederacy, will host a program in the Administration Building Patio.



An honor guard of Native American veterans from the Vietnam war era will open the ceremonies. Entertainment will be provided by the Little River Singers and Dancers. This eight-member group will appear in authentic Native American dress and perform a variety of Indian songs and dances. Following the program, a reception will feature Native American foods such as Indian tacos, corn, squash, peppers, pumpkins, Indian puddings, and much more.

Throughout the week, USDA cafeterias downtown will feature foods like those used by Native Americans in pre-Columbian times. Stuart Jamieson, USDA's coordinator of Native American activities, notes about 65 percent of the food popular in America today was grown by Indians and used before the time of Christopher Columbus. Jamieson, himself a full-blooded Seneca Indian, headed the task force that developed and will be presenting the activities for Native American Heritage Week. The full schedule of events follows:

### November 16

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS DEPICTING HISTORICAL AMERICAN INDIAN ACTIVITIES.

Room 320-W Administration Building

10 a.m. More than Bows and Arrows  
11 a.m. New Capitalists: Economics in Indian Country

Room 4304 South Building

2 p.m. More than Bows and Arrows  
3 p.m. New Capitalists: Economics in Indian Country

### November 17

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK PROGRAM  
FEATURING MITCHELL BUSH, PRESIDENT OF  
THE AMERICAN INDIAN ASSOCIATION, AND THE  
LITTLE RIVER SINGERS AND DANCERS.

10 a.m. USDA Patio

### November 18

TREE DEDICATION: DEPUTY SECRETARY PETER MYERS WILL DEDICATE THE WESTERN FIR ON THE NORTHEAST LAWN. NATIONAL INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT BOB MILLER WILL BE THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER.

10 a.m. 12th Street and Jefferson  
Administration Building

-Story by Angela Hooten  
Civil Rights and EEO Division

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## FNS Creates Federal Review System

In response to language in the Fiscal Year 1989 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, FNS has begun development of a system for FNS staff to review National School Lunch Program operations at the local school level.

During the week of October 17-21, representatives from all regional offices--along with staff from Child

(FRS Continued Next Page)



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Nutrition, Administrative Review, and Regional Operations--met to develop review forms, instructions, and guidance materials. These materials will be tested during pilot reviews conducted by each regional office during November and December.

Following the test, final review materials will be developed, again using regional staff. Training of Federal reviewers will take place in January and February of next year. The review system is expected to be in full operation by March 1989.

Since FNS is required to develop review materials and to hire and train new staff simultaneously, this project will mean busy days ahead for regional offices and the Child Nutrition Division.

-Story by Terry Hallberg  
Child Nutrition Division

## FNS Distributes CCFP Study

Data from a new FNS report are already being used in the debate about who receives Federal child-care benefits, and the study's findings could play a role in future child-care legislation.



The report on the Child Care Food Program (CCFP) was recently distributed. CCFP provides Federal funds for meals served to children in nonresidential day-care facilities. The study describes in detail the characteristics of participating children and their families, participating family day-care homes and day-care centers, and family day-care "umbrella" sponsors.

Major findings of the national study are:

- A total of 1.9 million children were enrolled in CCFP participating day-care facilities in 1986-1987. Thirty-one percent of the children were in day-care homes; 69 percent were in centers.
- Participating family day-care homes and non-Head Start centers provide flexible care, often full-day care or after-school-hours care, to children with working mothers.
- An estimated 71 percent of the children in participating day-care homes are from families with incomes above 185 percent of poverty, while 73 percent of all children in centers are from families with incomes at or below 185 percent of poverty.

The report compares current findings to those of a similar 1981 congressionally-mandated study. Several changes emerge, such as:

- A wider age-range of children served (more children over 5 and under 3 years old than before).
- A shift toward more full-time care, in both centers and homes.
- Much faster growth in CCFP participation for children in family-day-care homes than for children in centers.
- In day-care homes, a smaller proportion of children below 130 percent of poverty and a larger proportion over 185 percent.

Copies of the report, "Study of the Child Care Food Program (CCFP)," may be obtained by calling Steve Gale at 756-3117.

-Story by Leslie Christovich  
Office of Analysis and Evaluation

## Issuer of First Food Coupons Retires

Don Roberts, who handed out the first food stamps issued in the Nation, recently retired from the West Virginia Department of Human Services after 27 years.

In recognition of his exemplary service and leadership in food assistance programs, Margie Davis, officer-in-charge of the Charleston, West Virginia, Field Office, presents Don Roberts, recently retired West Virginia food stamp and food distribution director, a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the region.



Roberts was an issuance agent in McDowell County, West Virginia, where the pilot Food Stamp Program was launched in 1961. On May 21, 1961, he dispensed the coupons to the first recipients ever, a family named Muncy. On that day, they represented the 13,000 residents of McDowell County certified to receive benefits.

Since that time, the program has grown to serve 265,000 West Virginians monthly, and the former acting bureau director's work grew to include responsibility for the Food Stamp and Food Distribution Programs statewide.

"Over the years, there were issues that we'd deal with one-on-one, like every food stamp change, the coal miners' strikes, and emergency issuance of food stamps, and Don was always reasonable to work with," says Ralph Picone, MARO, Food Stamp Program director. "Don helped formulate what the Food Stamp Program is. We're going to miss his sense of perspective."

-Story by Marian Wig  
MARO Public Affairs Staff  
Photo by Kay Charr  
Charleston, West Virginia,  
Field Office

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## Field/Regional Staff Write QC Procedures Manual

A task force of field office representatives and MPRO quality control (QC) unit staffers recently met to draft a quality control procedures manual. Topics in the manual include how to order cases, procedures for arbitration requests, how to maintain a log, negative sample selection, policy dissemination, and field investigations.

A draft copy was sent to all MPRO field offices for comment and input.

The task force, organized by Pamela Blattner, supervisor of the MPRO QC unit, included Gale Brady of the assistant regional administrator's office; Denver OIC Irene Wise; Pierre OIC Hugh Sanders; Fay Shalla of the Helena Field Office; Vickie Vest of the Des Moines Field Office; Richard Gudenkauf of the Wichita Field Office; MPRO staffers Ray Steinert, Sue Horn, Hai Pham; and former employee Nola Soper.

-Story by Joanne Widner  
MPRO Public Affairs Staff



## MARO'S FWPC Celebrates Women's History Month

MARO's Federal Women's Program Committee (FWPC) recently presented a portrayal of 20th century American women during the month-long annual tribute to the history of women. FWP Manager Ellen Shannon directed this year's activities.

New Jersey Senator Wynona M. Lipman (D-Newark), guest speaker, traced the path of the women's equal rights movement. The Fulbright Scholar, recognized in 1983 by New Jersey Monthly magazine as one of New Jersey's most powerful women, reminded her audience that there is no mention of women in the Constitution and that it took 133 years after the document was written for women to gain the right to vote.



Senator Lipman also spoke about the accomplishments of the Commission on Sex Discrimination in the Statutes, which has been instrumental in supporting bills on housing discrimination and parental leave.

"She's Nobody's Baby," a documentary on women who shaped the Nation's history, was shown during Women's History Month. The 1981 movie, narrated by Marlo Thomas and Alan Alda, highlights social reformers, labor leaders, homemakers, and factory workers.

FWPC also conducted a workshop, "Image and Self Projection," to help employees put more impact into their professional images and careers.

On display throughout the month was an exhibit of clothing, news clippings, postcards and phonograph records dating from the 1920's to the 1980's.

-Story and photo by Marian Wig  
MARO Public Affairs Staff

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## "Baby Your Baby" in Utah

Utah's WIC staff is making special efforts to increase participation and reach more of its eligible high-risk population. The goal is to increase prenatal participation by 10 percent during Fiscal Year 1988.

To improve services to WIC clients in the Salt Lake City metropolitan area, a single clinic with an unmanageable caseload has been split into four separate clinics in existing facilities. A patient flow analysis undertaken at the single-clinic site helped determine staffing needs and clinic flow patterns.

Funded by an added statewide cigarette tax authorized by Utah's legislature, a special "Baby Your Baby" project focuses on prenatal care. The campaign was kicked off with a talk show on NBC affiliate KUTV (Channel 2) for Salt Lake viewers, followed by public service announcements to advise the target population where to get prenatal care, and with another "Baby Your Baby" show later. The TV spots provide the Health Department phone number, and callers will be referred to the right agency or clinic. This program will work with other Health Department programs to establish a prenatal data base, providing input to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta and linking data to birth certificate statistics.

(Utah Continued Last Page)



## USDA Meets With Farmers and Farmer Advocates

USDA representatives recently met with some 200 farmers and farmer advocates at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Among those who discussed the farm issues were, from left to right, Dana Froe, Office of Advocacy and Enterprise; public affairs specialist Kay Blakley and food program specialist Sandra McCoy (both of SWRO); Civil Rights and EEO Division Director Larry Brantley; and SERO Civil Rights Director Haynes Pressley (not shown).



This was the first of several regional conferences the Department's Office of Advocacy and Enterprise intends to conduct throughout the Nation to highlight ways USDA can assist the small, limited-resource, or economically disadvantaged farmer.

Some of the topics were: qualifying for drought assistance; taking advantage of financial aid through the Farmers Home Administration; practicing soil conservation; tapping the latest farming technology through the Cooperative Extension Service; learning about FNS food assistance programs; and how recent changes in the Food Stamp Program address the specific needs of economically disadvantaged farmers.

-Story by Kay Blakley  
SWRO Public Affairs Staff  
Photo by Haynes Pressley  
SERO Public Affairs Staff

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## Minneapolis Shares the Halloween Spirit

Del Tadych, master chef, cooked Halloween pumpkin stew for the Minneapolis Computer Support Center. He concocted this scrumptious lunch with the help of the System Analysis Unit staffers.



As hungry people queue up, the feast is ready to begin with (left to right) Dave Saarela, chief of the center; and Brenda Carpenter, Kim Golden, Hyue-Ryun Yang, data entry operators.

-Story by Audrey Olson  
Photo by John Erickson



**HAPPY  
VETERAN'S  
DAY**

## Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Clerk Stay in Schooler	(A)	GW-303	1/2	Open	88-SIS	FNS
o Clerk Typist	(A)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until Filled	NONE	FNS
o Prog Analyst	(A)	GS-345	12/13	11/21/88	89-07	OAE
o Prog Analyst	(A)	GS-345	9/11	11/21/88	89-08	OAE
o Prog Analyst	(A)	GS-345	12/13	11/21/88	89-09	OAE
o Prog Analyst	(A)	GS-345	9/11	11/21/88	89-10	OAE
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-630	11/12	11/21/88	89-15	NTSD
o Food Prog Officer	(FN-N)	GM-120	14	11/17/88	89-16	CND
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-630	11/12	11/21/88	89-H-17	HNIS
o Emp Relations Spec	(G)	GS-230	13	12/05/88	89-20	PED
o Secretary (Typg)	(FN-HQ)	GS-318	5/6	11/22/88	89-21	DAM
o Secretary (Typg)	(FN-HQ)	GS-318	5	11/23/88	89-22	NTSD

### Office Location

HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service  
 NTSD - Nutrition and Technical Services Division  
 CND - Child Nutrition Division  
 OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation  
 PED - Personnel Division  
 DAM - Deputy Administrator for Management

### Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources  
 (FN-N) - Food and Nutrition Service (Nationwide)  
 (FN-HQ) - Food and Nutrition Service (Headquarters)  
 (HNIS) - Human Nutrition Information Service  
 (G) - Governmentwide

### (Utah Continued)

Hospital dietitians--themselves former WIC employees with a firsthand acquaintance with the program--have been enlisted in a neonatal followup that acts as a built-in referral system to find eligible new mothers and infants and introduce them to Utah's WIC program.

-Story by Joanne Widner  
 MPRO Public Affairs Staff

### **In Memory of Frederick McNamara**

Fred McNamara, NERO Financial Management Director, died suddenly on October 30, 1988, of a heart attack while jogging.

A Lowell, Massachusetts, native Fred was the son of Mary G. McNamara and the late Frederick J. McNamara. He was a graduate of Merrimack College and received his master's in public administration from the University of Michigan. He lived in Sudbury with his wife, Ellen, and their children Shaun, Martha, and Brenda.